

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 were presented for examination.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,504,275 issued to Nondahl et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,992,826 issued to Nakabayashi.

It was stated that claims 2-4 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

The Office Action

In view of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over Nondahl et al. in view of Nakabayashi, and further because the Examiner stated that claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, independent claim 1 has been amended to now recite a slide mechanism for sliding the transparent plate. It should be noted that the Examiner stated that both claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1, and that claim 2 specified manual operation of the slide mechanism while claim 3 included a motor for driving the slide mechanism. In paragraph 8 of the present Office Action, the Examiner stated that the reason for the indication of allowable subject matter is based on the inclusion of a sliding mechanism for sliding the transparent plate. Consequently, whether the slide mechanism is operated manually or by means of a motor should not adversely affect the patentability of independent claim 1 as long as it recites the slide mechanism limitation of dependent claims 2 or 3. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been amended to retain the limitation for manual operation of the slide mechanism, while claim 3 has been amended to include the motor for sliding the transparent plate by operation of a switch. Each of claims 2 and 3, however, remain dependent from claim 1 and should, therefore, as amended, also be in condition for allowance.

Claim 4, depending from claim 3, remains as originally filed, but depending from amended claim 3, should also be in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 is a new claim structured similar to amended claim 1, but with some

unnecessary limitations removed. For instance, claim 5 includes the rotor having a hollow body portion, but does not specify that the hollow body portion be formed between a drive-side flange portion and a load-side flange portion. This should not negatively affect the patentability of the claim, particularly since the claim includes the above-mentioned sliding mechanism for sliding the transparent plate. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that new claim 5, like amended claim 1, patentably defines over the cited references and should be in condition for allowance.

Other references considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure and made of record, but not relied upon by the Examiner, have been reviewed by the applicant. The applicant submits that these references alone or in combination do not teach the present invention.

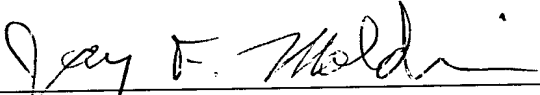
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-5) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

December 27, 2004
Date

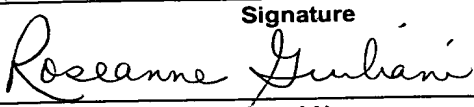

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